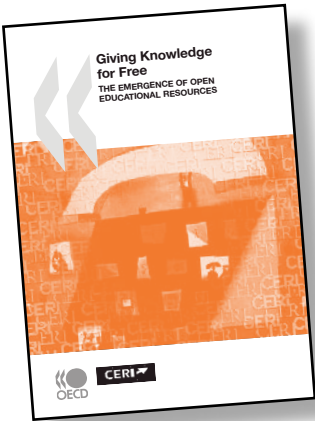


Looking At The ISSUES

July 13, 2007



Open Educational Resources are Increasing

OER (Open Educational Resources) can be expected to affect curriculum, pedagogy and assessment... Anecdotal data suggest that this is already happening.¹ – OECD

In a time of increasing competition for students, several colleges and universities are promoting a paradox – they are not only collaborating together in the production of knowledge, they are giving it away for free. These institutions are spearheading a rapidly growing movement known as Open

Educational Resources (OER). Key to the movement is something known as OpenCourseWare (OCW).

OCW is a high quality digital publication of materials arranged as a course. While not credit-bearing, these virtual courses are open to anyone with internet access anywhere in the world. Now, over 100 universities and supporting organizations have formed a consortium to create “a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model... to advance education and empower people worldwide...”² In the United States, 1,700 courses have been made available.

In a new report, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) now estimates that 3,000 courses are currently available from over 300 colleges and universities world-wide. OECD projects continued rapid growth with institutions in at least 18 other nations now developing projects. Even more interesting, software is being developed to go beyond simple downloads of lectures in pdf files. New OER formats will allow for the use of content in different virtual contexts.

Visit the MIT OpenCourseWare Site at: <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html> or the OpenCourseWare Consortium site at: <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>

¹ Center for Educational Research and Innovation (2007). Giving Knowledge for Free: The Emergence of Open Educational Resources. Paris, France: OECD Publishing. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en_2649_201185_38659497_1_1_1_1,00.html

² OpenCourseWare Consortium, About Us, at: <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/about/index.shtml>

Looking At The Week

Future NEO Leadership

On July 10th, Dr. Adrienne O’Neill attended the first meeting of the Future NEO Leadership Team at the MAGNET Innovation Center in Cleveland. Dr. O’Neill will co-chair the Talent Development team whose goal is to “further educate and expand Northeast Ohio’s talent pool to meet the needs of current and future employers, especially in the emerging technology areas of renewable energy, alternative fuels, fuel cells, nanotechnology, biomedical and bioscience.”